

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 00-23-100, filed 11/21/00, effective 1/1/01)

WAC 296-115-050 General requirements. (1) Application.

(a) The following rules are applicable to all vessels operated within the scope of this chapter.

(b) Where an existing vessel does not comply with a particular requirement of this section, the director may grant a temporary variance to allow time for modifications to be made.

(c) Where an existing vessel does not comply with a specific requirement contained herein but the degree of protection afforded is judged to be adequate for the service in which the vessel is used, the director may grant a permanent variance.

(2) Lifesaving equipment. Where equipment required by this section is required to be of an approved type, the equipment is required to be approved by the USCG.

(3) Lifesaving equipment required.

(a) All vessels carrying passengers must carry life floats or buoyant apparatus for all persons on board.

(b) All life floats or buoyant apparatus must be international orange in color.

(c) In the case of vessels operating not more than one mile from land, the director may permit operation with reduced amounts of life floats or buoyant apparatus, when, in his opinion, it is safe to do so.

(d) Lifeboats, life rafts, dinghies, dories, skiffs, or similar type craft may be substituted for the required life floats or buoyant apparatus if the substitution is approved by the director.

(e) Life floats, buoyant apparatus, or any authorized substitute must have the following equipment:

(i) A life line around the sides at least equivalent to 3/8-inch manila, festooned in bights of at least three feet, with a seine float in the center of each bight.

(ii) Two paddles or oars not less than four feet in length.

(iii) A painter of at least thirty feet in length and of at least two-inch manila or the equivalent.

(f) All vessels must have an approved adult type life preserver for each person carried, with at least ten percent additional of a type suitable for children.

(g) Life preservers must be stowed in readily accessible places in the upper part of the vessel, and each life preserver shall be marked with the vessel's name.

(h) All vessels must carry at least one life ring buoy of an approved type with sixty feet of line attached.

(i) The life ring buoy must be carried in a readily accessible location and must be capable of being cast loose at any time.

(4) Fire protection.

(a) The general construction of a vessel must minimize fire hazards.

(b) Internal combustion engine exhausts, boiler and galley uptakes, and similar sources of ignition must be kept clear of and suitably insulated from woodwork or other combustible material.

(c) Lamp, paint, and oil lockers and similar storage areas for flammable or combustible liquids must be constructed of metal or lined with metal.

(5) Fire protection equipment. Equipment required by this section, when required to be of an approved type, must be of a type approved by the USCG or other agency acceptable to the director.

(6) Fire pumps.

(a) All vessels carrying more than forty-nine passengers must carry an approved power fire pump, and all other vessels must carry an approved hand fire pump. These pumps must be provided with a suitable suction and discharge hose. These pumps may also serve as bilge pumps.

(b) Vessels required to have a power fire pump must also have a fire main system, including fire main, hydrants, hose, and nozzles. The fire hose may be a good commercial grade garden hose of not less than 5/8 inch size.

(7) Fixed fire extinguishing system.

(a) All vessels powered by internal combustion engines using gasoline or other fuel having a flashpoint of 110°F or lower, must have a fixed fire extinguishing system to protect the machinery and fuel tank spaces.

(b) This system must be an approved type using carbon dioxide and have a capacity sufficient to protect the space.

(c) Controls for the fixed system must be installed in an accessible location outside the space protected.

(8) Fire axe. All vessels must have one fire axe located in or near the pilothouse.

(9) Portable fire extinguishers.

(a) All vessels must have a minimum number of portable fire extinguishers of an approved type. The number required will be determined by the director.

(b) Portable fire extinguishers must be inspected at least once a month. Extinguishers found defective must be serviced or replaced.

(c) Portable fire extinguishers must be serviced at least once a year. The required service must consist of discharging

and recharging foam and dry chemical extinguishers and weighing and inspecting carbon dioxide extinguishers.

(d) Portable fire extinguishers must be hydrostatically tested at intervals not to exceed those specified in WAC 296-24-59211(2) and Table I (after August 31, 2001, see WAC 296-800-300).

(e) Portable fire extinguishers of the vaporizing liquid type such as carbon tetrachloride and other toxic vaporizing liquids are prohibited and must not be carried on any vessel.

(f) Portable fire extinguishers must be mounted in brackets or hangers near the space protected. The location must be marked in a manner satisfactory to the director.

(10) Means of escape.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, all vessels must be provided with not less than two avenues of escape from all general areas accessible to the passengers or where the crew may be quartered or normally employed. The avenues must be located so that if one is not available the other may be. At least one of the avenues should be independent of watertight doors.

(b) Where the length of the compartment is less than twelve feet, one vertical means of escape will be acceptable under the following conditions:

(i) There is no source of fire in the space, such as a galley stove or heater and the vertical escape is remote from the engine and fuel tank space; or

(ii) The arrangement is such that the installation of two means of escape does not materially improve the safety of the vessel or those aboard.

(11) Ventilation.

(a) All enclosed spaces within the vessel must be properly vented or ventilated. Where such openings would endanger the vessel under adverse weather conditions, means must be provided to close them.

(b) All crew and passenger space must be adequately ventilated in a manner suitable to the purpose of the space.

(12) Crew and passenger accommodations.

(a) Vessels with crew members living aboard must have suitable accommodations.

(b) Vessels carrying passengers must have fixed seating for the maximum number of passengers permitted to be carried.

(c) Fixed seating must be installed with spacing to provide for ready escape in case of fire or other casualty.

(d) Fixed seating must be installed as follows, except that special consideration may be given by the director if escape over the side can be readily accomplished through windows or other openings in the way of the seats:

(i) Aisles not over fifteen feet long must be not less than twenty-four inches wide.

(ii) Aisles over fifteen feet long must be not less than thirty inches wide.

(iii) Where seats are in rows the distance from seat front to seat front must be not less than thirty inches.

(e) Portable or temporary seating may be installed but must be arranged in general as provided for fixed seating.

(13) Toilet facilities and drinking water.

(a) Vessels must be provided with toilets and wash basins as specified in WAC ((~~296-24-12007 and 296-24-12009~~ (after August 31, 2001, see WAC ~~296-800-300~~)) 296-800-230, except that in the case of vessels used exclusively on short runs of approximately thirty minutes or less, the director may approve other arrangements.

(b) All toilets and wash basins must be fitted with adequate plumbing. Facilities for men and women must be in separate compartments, except in the case of vessels carrying forty-nine passengers and less, the director may approve other arrangements.

(c) Potable drinking water must be provided for all passengers and crew. The provisions of WAC ((~~296-24-12005 applies through August 31, 2001, after August 31, 2001, see WAC 296-800-300~~)) 296-800-230 apply.

(d) Covered trash containers must be provided in passenger areas.

(14) Rails and guards.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, rails or equivalent protection must be installed near the periphery of all weather decks accessible to passengers and crews. Where space limitations make deck rails impractical, such as at narrow catwalks in the way of deckhouse sides, hand grabs may be substituted.

(b) Rails must consist of evenly spaced courses. The spacing must not be greater than twelve inches except as provided in WAC 296-115-050 (14)(f). The lower rail courses may not be required where all or part of the space below the upper rail course is fitted with a bulwark, chain link fencing, wire mesh or the equivalent.

(c) On passenger decks of vessels engaged in ferry or excursion type operation, rails must be at least forty-two inches high. The top rail must be pipe, wire, chain, or wood and must withstand at least two hundred pounds of side loading. The space below the top rail must be fitted with bulwarks, chain link fencing, wire mesh, or the equivalent.

(d) On vessels in other than passenger service, the rails must be not less than thirty-six inches high, except that where vessels are used in special service, the director may approve other arrangements, but in no case less than thirty inches.

(e) Suitable storm rails or hand grabs must be installed where necessary in all passageways, at deckhouse sides, and at

ladders and hatches where passengers or crew might have normal access.

(f) Suitable covers, guards, or rails must be installed in the way of all exposed and hazardous places such as gears or machinery. (See WAC 296-24-150 for detailed requirements.)

(15) Machinery installation.

(a) Propulsion machinery.

(i) Propulsion machinery must be suitable in type and design for the propulsion requirements of the hull in which it is installed. Installations meeting the requirements of the USCG or other classification society will be considered acceptable to the director.

(ii) Installations using gasoline as a fuel must meet the requirements of applicable USCG standards.

(iii) Installations using diesel fuel must meet the requirements of applicable USCG standards.

(b) Auxiliary machinery and bilge systems.

(i) All vessels must be provided with a suitable bilge pump, piping and valves for removing water from the vessel.

(ii) Vessels carrying more than forty-nine passengers must have a power operated bilge pump. The source of power must be independent of the propulsion machinery. Other vessels must have a hand operated bilge pump, but may have a power operated pump if it is operated by an independent power source.

(c) Steering apparatus and miscellaneous systems.

(i) All vessels must be provided with a suitable steering apparatus.

(ii) All vessels must be provided with navigation lights and shapes, whistles, fog horns, and fog bells as required by the USCG rules of navigation.

(iii) All vessels must be equipped with a suitable number of portable battery lights for emergency purposes.

(d) Electrical installations. The electrical installations of all vessels must be at least equal to applicable USCG standards, or as approved by the director.